

(1) Mobile Defense. A mobile defense is the defense of an area or position in which maneuver is used together with fire and terrain to seize the initiative from the enemy. A mobile defense focuses on the destruction of the enemy by permitting him to advance into positions that expose him to counterattack by a strong, mobile reserve. Minimal force is placed forward to canalize, delay, disrupt, and deceive the enemy as to the actual location of our defenses. By retaining the mobile forces until the critical time and place are identified, the commander can then focus combat power in violent and rapid counterattacks throughout the depth of the battlespace. Marine aviation provides vital support to all defending forces and may serve as the main or only counterattack force.

(2) Position Defense. A position defense (sometimes referred to as an area defense) places the bulk of the defending force in selected tactical positions (where the decisive battle will be fought). It denies the enemy critical terrain or facilities. A position defense focuses on the retention of terrain by absorbing the enemy into a series of interlocked positions from which he can be destroyed, largely by a combination of fire and maneuver. Principal reliance is placed on the ability of the forces in the defended positions to maintain their positions and to control the terrain between them. Marine aviation can provide the fires necessary for this form of defense.

3007. Aviation in Security Operations

Security is an aspect of all operations, whether offensive, defensive, or retrograde. Security operations are assigned missions. They involve the measures taken by a unit to protect itself against all acts that might impair its effectiveness. There are three types of security missions: screen, guard, and cover. Each of these missions entails placing a force between the enemy and our main force. As part of a task-organized security force, Marine aviation can provide various functional capabilities that extend a security mission's reach, responsiveness, and effectiveness. Depending on the nature of the enemy, weather, and terrain,

fixed-wing and/or rotary-wing aircraft may be able to perform the security mission by themselves. However, most security operations include a mutually supporting mix of forces.

a. Screen

A screen observes, identifies, and reports information. It fights only in self-protection and—

- ┆ Provides early warning of enemy approach.
- ┆ Gains and maintains enemy contact and reports enemy activity.
- ┆ Conducts counterreconnaissance within its capabilities.
- ┆ Impedes and harasses the enemy within its capabilities.

A screen provides only surveillance and early warning of enemy action, not physical protection. It can be employed as an economy-of-force measure in a low-risk area because it provides security on a broad frontage with limited assets. Marine aviation combat forces are ideally suited to performing a screen because of the large areas to be screened during rapid and deep offensive operations. However, the cost in resources over time is a factor. For example, a screen consisting of one section of fighter and/or attack aircraft may require commitment of an entire squadron plus supporting aircraft (e.g., to provide EW and target acquisition) to ensure 24-hour coverage. Also, surveillance from the air has certain limitations and the enemy may have the ability to conceal its forces and facilities from aerial observation.

b. Guard

A guard protects the main force from attack, direct fire, and ground observation by engaging the enemy in order to gain time while also observing and reporting information. It also—

- ┆ Provides early warning of enemy approach.
- ┆ Provides maneuver space to the front, flanks, or rear of the force.
- ┆ Screens, attacks, defends, or delays (within its capabilities) to protect the force.

An advance guard provides early warning, develops the situation, and provides time and maneuver

space for an attacking force. A flank guard operates to the flank of a moving or stationary force to protect it from enemy ground observation, direct fire, and surprise attack. A flank guard must protect the entire depth of the main force's flank. A rear guard protects the rear of the column from hostile forces. It attacks, defends, and delays as necessary. The commander may order the guard to hold for a specified period of time. Marine aviation's reconnaissance capabilities, speed, range, firepower, and mobility make it ideal for a guard mission.

c. Cover

A covering force operates apart from the main force to intercept, engage, delay, disorganize, and deceive the enemy before it can attack the main body. It prevents surprise during the advance. It also—

- ┆ Gains and maintains contact with the enemy.
- ┆ Denies the enemy information about the size, strength, composition, and intention of the main force.
- ┆ Conducts counterreconnaissance and destroys enemy security forces.
- ┆ Develops the situation to determine enemy dispositions, strengths, and weaknesses.

Aviation forces assets may provide covering forces because of their speed, range, reconnaissance, and communications capabilities. A cover screens, guards, attacks, defends, and delays as necessary to accomplish its mission. It is a self-contained maneuver force that operates beyond the range of friendly artillery positioned with the main force. A covering force may be task-organized (including infantry and aviation forces, artillery, and combat service support) to operate independently. The cover mission may be expressed in terms of time or enemy disposition (e.g., delay the enemy for 3 hours before battle handover or delay the enemy until the advance guard is defeated).

3008. Aviation in Military Operations Other Than War

MOOTW involves the use of military forces in situations other than large-scale, sustained military operations. MOOTW focuses on deterring war, resolving conflict, promoting peace, and supporting civil authorities in response to domestic crises. As in war, MOOTW's goals are to achieve national objectives as quickly as possible and to conclude operations on terms that are favorable to the United States and its allies. MOOTW may involve elements of both combat and noncombat operations and may occur during either peacetime or war. JP 3-07, *Joint Doctrine for Military Operations Other Than War*, lists the following 16 types of MOOTW:

- ┆ Arms control.
- ┆ Combatting terrorism.
- ┆ Department of Defense support to counterdrug operations.
- ┆ Enforcement of sanctions and/or maritime intercept operations.
- ┆ Enforcing exclusion zones.
- ┆ Ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight.
- ┆ Humanitarian assistance.
- ┆ Military support to civil authorities.
- ┆ Nation assistance or support to counterinsurgency, which includes—
 - ┆ Security assistance.
 - ┆ Foreign internal defense.
 - ┆ Humanitarian and civic assistance.
- ┆ Noncombatant evacuation operations (NEOs).
- ┆ Peace operations, which include—
 - ┆ Peace enforcement.
 - ┆ Peacekeeping.
 - ┆ Operations in support of diplomatic efforts (which include preventive diplomacy, peace-making, and peace building).
- ┆ Protection of shipping.
- ┆ Recovery operations.
- ┆ Show of force operations.
- ┆ Strikes and raids.
- ┆ Support to insurgency.